

Gosai, this year's winner of the Country Doctor of the Year Award.

Let me begin by saying that Dr. Gosai best exemplifies and illustrates the Hippocratic oath he took upon entering the practice of medicine. He is a shining example of what that oath is all about. He is a great human being.

This award was created to recognize outstanding rural physicians throughout the United States, and Dr. Gosai definitely is deserving of this recognition.

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This is a tribute to his dedication, skill and caring for his patients, a rare commodity in a time when health care is undergoing questionable change.

Dr. Gosai always has time for his patients. He practices out of the Southwest Medical Center in Bentleyville, Pennsylvania, a small community of about 2,300 people where I met my wife Dolores. While many physicians choose to practice medicine in larger, more populated areas, Dr. Gosai has chosen to make his home in the Mon Valley region of southwestern Pennsylvania.

Dr. Gosai is the perfect example of how a good country doctor can change a community in a positive way. He brought a state-of-the-art medical center to Bentleyville and recruited many specialists to enter his practice. He also opened a medical center in 1993 in nearby Charleroi, Pennsylvania, ironically where I live, which now employs nearly 100 and offers a wide range of specialty practices.

In addition to being on call 24 hours a day, it is not uncommon for Dr. Gosai to see 75 patients a day in his office or make himself available for last-minute exams or emergencies; and, yes, he still makes some house calls.

As key health care providers for more than 60 million people, country doctors are an integral part of America's health care system, and the people of the 20th District of Pennsylvania are very fortunate to have a dedicated physician like Dr. Gosai living in their own backyard.

Mr. Speaker, I know the entire House of Representatives joins me in congratulating Dr. Gosai on this well-deserved honor. He is a credit to his profession.

TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF PATRICIA A. JONES

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PENCE). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to an outstanding woman, Mrs. Patricia A. Jones, who in her own right provided immeasurable services, especially to children and social service agencies in Chicago, Illinois, and its surrounding suburbs.

In addition to that, Mrs. Jones is also the beloved wife of the Senate Demo-

cratic Leader of Illinois, Emil Jones, Jr. She passed away Sunday past at 11 p.m. at St. Francis Hospital, a young woman, only 63 years old.

She was as much a partner in her husband's public life as she was in his private life. Emil and Patricia Jones were wed on December 4, 1974. She was born in New Orleans, Louisiana, on August 9, 1938, the third of eleven children. She went through the New Orleans school system where she became a teacher.

Of course, ultimately, she came to Chicago and is survived by her husband; two sons, John Sterling and Emil Jones III; and a nephew, Emil Alvarez Jones, whom she raised. She is also survived by a number of other relatives.

She attended Loyola University in Chicago and graduated from Chicago State University.

As a young adult, Mrs. Jones moved with her family to Chicago. She was employed by the City of Chicago, administering the Title 20 program for a number of years, which included preschool, Head Start. She also taught in the preschool program at the YMCA in Chicago.

She served on the school board as President of Holy Name of Mary Catholic School in Morgan Park. She was active in her church, Holy Name Mary Catholic Church in Morgan Park, where she was a former member of the Ladies Guild. She was a member of AKA Sorority and a board member of the Beverly Arts Center.

We extend our condolences to the minority leader in the Illinois Senate, Emil Jones, on the death of his wife, but we value her contributions and know that they will long remain not only a part of Chicago but a part of the Nation.

FOLLOW THE WILL OF CONGRESS: REMOVE MEXICAN SEWAGE FROM U.S. SOIL AND WATER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. FILNER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to tell my colleagues about an incredible situation that is going on in my district in San Diego, California. I have running through my district 50 million gallons of raw sewage a day. I doubt that any congressman in America could say that, 50 million gallons of raw sewage coming through his or her district.

This is because of the nature of the geography in southern California and the unfortunate situation that our sister city across the Mexican border, Tijuana, does not have facilities to treat all its sewage, so sewage which is untreated eventually finds its way into the Tijuana River Valley, across my district and then empties into the Pa-

cific Ocean. It is a terrible environmental problem which both countries are trying to solve.

I have worked on this problem for over a decade as a member of the San Diego City Council and as a member of this Congress. We found a win-win-win way to deal with this issue that had been plaguing us for 50 years.

A joint U.S.-Mexico private firm made a proposal to build a sewage treatment plant using the most advanced environmental techniques to build such a plant in Mexico where the water could be treated to a level that could be reclaimed for agriculture, commercial or even drinking use, which Mexico desperately needs, and this treatment would be paid for by the United States government.

It is the citizens of this country that are being affected by the potential disease and the environmental problems. So we thought, given the situation, that a private firm working with both countries could not only treat the sewage, but solve the U.S. environmental problem, and help recycle water to Mexico.

My former colleague and I, Mr. Bilbray, convinced this Congress that such a plan was workable, and, in fact, this Congress a year ago passed a law, Public Law 106-457, to do exactly what I just outlined, to solve a 50-year-old problem. Title VIII of that law authorized the International Boundary and Water Commission to begin negotiations with Mexico to provide for the treatment of Mexican sewage that flows into the United States. This Congress decided that unanimously.

Recently, the new commissioner that was appointed by President Bush for the International Boundary and Water Commission, Mr. Carlos Ramirez from El Paso, decided on his own, without talking to any of us here in Congress, ignoring decades of litigation by environmental groups, ignoring all the work that had been done by the political leaders, local, State and Federal, in San Diego and in Mexico, repeatedly said recently in public meetings and to the press that that law had no force, that he was not required to, in fact, undertake those negotiations and build the treatment plant mandated by Congress. In fact, he said we are going to do it with an expensive process that this Congress and our whole border community rejected a decade ago.

I do not know why the new commissioner started off his work in this fashion. I offered to meet with him. No meeting could be arranged, but I took this problem to the chairman of the subcommittee that had worked out this legislation a year ago, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN), and he agreed to hold an oversight hearing on the implementation of the law that required the sewage treatment plant to be built cooperatively with Mexico.

This hearing will be scheduled for this Wednesday, December 12. I hope that the administration spokesman, Mr. Ramirez, his employer, the State Department, the Office of Management and Budget will explain why a law that was passed by Congress a year ago has not been implemented.

This law is environmentally sound. It is good for the taxpayers of this Nation. It solves a problem that has been with us for 50 years. What Mr. Ramirez wants to do is treat half the problem, do it more expensively and in an environmentally insensitive way. I do not understand that at all, and I am glad the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN) agrees with me that he should explain this to Congress.

So we will have this oversight hearing which is the role of Congress to have. It is about time the International Boundary and Water Commission followed the will of this Congress.

CHANGING THE PRESCRIPTION COPAY FOR VETERANS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMMONS). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. STRICKLAND) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. STRICKLAND. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to take a few moments this evening to explain something that is happening to veterans that I think many Members of this House may not be aware of and would like to correct.

Currently, a veteran who receives prescription medications as an outpatient for a service-connected disability is charged a \$2 copay per prescription, and the Veterans Administration is contemplating increasing that copay from \$2 per prescription to \$7 per prescription, a 250 percent increase in one fell swoop.

Why are we doing this? I have checked with the Chillicothe, Ohio, Veterans Hospital and talked with their CEO. He tells me that, at that hospital, the average veteran who gets prescription medications takes, on average, at least 10 prescriptions per month. If we take \$7 per prescription and multiply it by 10, that is \$70 a month; and then many veterans get their prescriptions for 3 months at a time. So 70 times 3 finally starts adding up to a sizeable amount of money, especially for a veteran with a service-connected disability who is trying to live on a fixed income.

It is unconscionable to me that at this time in our Nation's history, when we are paying honor to those who are fighting for us and for those who have fought for us, that we would increase the costs of prescription medications; and we are doing it at a time, quite frankly, when we are making huge, multibillion dollar tax breaks available to wealthy corporations.

Who do we care about in this House? Wealthy corporations or the men and

women who have served this country honorably and who are sick and in need of medication and who oftentimes cannot afford that medication, even with a \$2 copay?

I have introduced H.R. 2820, and it is a simple bill. It just simply says that the Secretary of the Veterans Administration cannot increase this copay amount beyond the \$2 for the next 5 years. Surely, surely, we can find the resources to do this good thing. I am calling upon my colleagues, and I am doing this on behalf of those who have served our country, the men and women who have paid the price, given of their time, given of their bodies and been willing to give of their very lives to make sure that those of us who serve in this Chamber can do so in freedom.

So I call upon my colleagues to join me in cosponsoring H.R. 2820. It is the least we can do for those who have done so much for us.

ECONOMIC STIMULUS PACKAGE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. CUNNINGHAM) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I do not plan on taking the full 5 minutes. But we have just gotten through with the defense bill and the Select Committee on Intelligence has just passed its conference report, and our Nation is at war, and above the regular amount the President has seen fit to give a \$40 billion supplemental to try not only to help people in New York, people at the Pentagon, but this Nation heal itself.

Post-September 11 has seen over 700,000 jobs lost, and yet we still have 99 percent of the American people that have their jobs, but if someone is one of those of that 1 percent that has lost their job, it is critical to them. Many of the people in my own district that has happened to.

We tried to protect those jobs, and I think that we need to do more. We also need to help people temporarily. But even more important than that, Mr. Speaker, we need to stimulate the growth of the new and the old jobs through different measures, economic measures.

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Seventy-five percent of the jobs created are created by small business in this country, and I believe that tax relief for businesses will act as a stimulus that will enable those businesses to hire more people, to hire back some of those 700,000 that have lost their jobs.

We all know that a company does not just fire people because it wants to; it is because they are working with a margin. And when they start losing

money, either because they are overtaxed or because of the system or something like September 11 happens, they are forced to let people go. I have people in the hotel industry that only have about a 25 percent occupancy right now. That is devastating to those industries, and this has happened across the board.

So the things we can do to stimulate the economy is, one, tax relief for those businesses. That is important in an economic stimulus package, as well as direct pay to some of those folks that need the help immediately.

Secondly, there has been a lot of debate on trade in this House, and I think very positively, both those for and opposed. But I believe whether you are a union worker or come from the private sector, our workers in this country are second to none. Given fair trade and given an equal chance, they can compete with any nation.

Some people debate and look at the trade deference. Well, ask anybody, they would rather be from a country that has higher pay, that has higher quality, that has higher technology than a country that has low pay, low technology, but yet is able to flood the markets. It just stands to reason. It is common sense.

Trade is also important to my State, California. The number one commodity in California is agriculture. Those that say they are friendly to agriculture should have no second thought on the vote that is coming to us tomorrow or the next day on the trade bill sent down by the President. The bill tomorrow will improve existing and future trade agreements. Not necessarily new trade agreements, but it will enable the President to shore up problems that many of my colleagues on the other side have brought forward, and I think in some cases rightfully so.

Mr. Carville, who used to work for President Clinton, once said, "It's the economy, stupid." If we can give tax relief to businesses and stimulate jobs, if we can pass trade agreements that will help benefit our workers and shore up existing problems, I think that will help.

My constituents want three kinds of security: they want personal security; they want to be safe in their schools and on their streets; they want to be able to open up a piece of mail that does not have anthrax in it; they want economic security, to know they are not going to lose their job; and they want national security. For those things, Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to support both the economic package, the stimulus package that was passed out of this House, and to support the trade agreement that will be brought forward this week.